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PANZEE

Press

Gay Student Alliance Summit

Keystone Conference:
the "T-Party"

Harrisburg City Council Candidates

Rock the Dome: HB300

Green High Heel Race

GAY RETRO HARRISBURG

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PA Anti-discrimination Bill Advances Out of Committee

On March 11, 2009, the State Government committee of the House of Representatives narrowly approved H.B. 300 by 12-11, which would protect people who live or work in Pennsylvania from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. The bill would address discrimination in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations.

State Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, chairman of the Allegheny County Democratic Delegation, reintroduced the legislation last week. Rep. Babette Josephs, Chairperson of the State Government Committee, held hearings around the state on it during the 2007-08 session. The bill has more than 70 bipartisan co-sponsors in the House, including all members of the majority leadership.

Josephs said, "Every single individual, regardless of his or her sexual orientation, deserves the full rights that come with being a Pennsylvania and U.S. citizen. Discrimination should not be an option, period."

"We cannot afford to discriminate against LGBT citizens because we can't afford to lose anyone's contribution. Our state and nation face difficult problems: violence in our homes and on the streets; a lack of quality education and health care; a crumbling infrastructure; pollution and global warming; drug use and crime. We need everyone to help address these challenges," she said.

Frankel said, "This committee vote is a first step toward making state law more fair and just and making Pennsylvania more economically competitive. We are surrounded on three sides by states that ban anti-gay discrimination – Maryland, New Jersey and New York. They are among the twenty states that have this competitive advantage over Pennsylvania when it comes to attracting and retaining businesses and residents."

"I commend Chairwoman Josephs and fellow members of the committee who stood up against discrimination today. I will continue working with fair-minded members of the House from both parties to advance this legislation."



Dan Frankel

Frankel and Josephs noted that a November 2007 poll done by a firm that has many Republican clients found 71 percent of Pennsylvania voters supported the bill. The bill drew majority support in every region of the state and from Republicans and self-described conservatives.

"The across-the-board support for this common sense bill reflects that most Pennsylvanians already know being gay or transgendered has nothing to do with a person's ability to fix a car or computer, or to show up on time and to do a good day's work," Frankel said.

Pennsylvania's Human Relations Act already bans discrimination based on race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, a non-job related handicap or disability, or the use of a guide or support animal due to a person being blind, deaf or having a physical handicap.

Frankel and Josephs said H.B. 300 would benefit all Pennsylvanians.

"While approximately 10 percent of the population is directly affected, a larger number of prospective residents and employers – straight and gay alike – value diversity and laws that reflect fairness. When they decide where to live and where to retain or create jobs, these factors matter. Oklahoma apparently lost out on 1,000 jobs last year because a state lawmaker's anti-gay diatribe called attention to that state's laws and relative lack of fairness on this issue," Frankel said.

Josephs said, "This legislation would also protect heterosexual Pennsylvanians from being fired based on their sexual orientation or their gender identity or expression. This legislation would protect everyone."

Nearly 80 percent of Pennsylvania's 12.5 million residents live or work in communities that do not provide these protections, according to the Value All Families Coalition.

Thirteen Pennsylvania municipalities have enacted civil rights laws including protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. These municipalities are Allentown, Easton, Erie County, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lansdowne, New Hope, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Swarthmore, West Chester and York. State College also has an ordinance that covers only sexual orientation discrimination in housing and employment.

Letter from the Publisher

It's been another powerful month for the BGLQT community. Common Roads / LGBT Center Coalition held their 2nd Annual Gay/Straight Alliance Summit. TransCentral PA followed suit with their First Annual Keystone Conference. The Value All Families Coalition, including representatives from Equality Advocates PA (Go Jake!), UUPlan, ACLU, Stonewall Democrats, and of course, Panzee Press, put together a rally / lobby day for HB 300 to make it illegal to discriminate against sexual minorities in jobs and housing. In this issue's TransCentral PA column, Alanna Berger's (UUPlan) status has been elevated to a single name: move over Jacki, Diana & Madonna, here comes Alanna. 2009 Central PA Pride is moving into full swing, as marked annually with the St. Patrick's Day Green High Heel Race and the announcement of the Festival's featured entertainer. For details, turn to the PrideFest of Central PA column. Liquid 891 & Miss Gay PA hosted a huge turnout for a few Jell-O Wrestling matches. Club XS found their new Mr. Club XS and the new Miss Gay York PA America.

The 2007/2008 Pennsylvania legislation session ended with hundreds of us fighting for equal rights by chanting "Stop this bill!" in the Capital Rotunda and putting an end to SB 1250. That bill would have added words of discrimination into Pennsylvania's constitution. The 2009/2010 session started with hundreds of us fighting for equal rights by chanting "Pass this bill!" We're acting proactively instead of defensively to stop discrimination.

I'm thrilled to present to you this month's cover story: Gay Retro Harrisburg, 70's and 80s. Panzee's been looking for somebody to write this story since we started almost two years ago. Chris Deitz stepped up to the plate and hit a home run. I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

I usually avoid nepotism and limit the amount of attention Panzee gives my husband, but on March 17th, he prepared and served lunch for 200 people for the Rock the Dome Rally & Lobby Day, then hours later, he ran and won the High Heel Race! After all that, he

spent hours soaking in a hot tub. Thank you for all your efforts Jamie. I love you.

Highlighted in this issue are two people running for Harrisburg City Council, who approached Panzee for an interview. Since they acknowledge the BGLQT community and are concerned about our equality, we are proud to offer you the opportunity to learn about them.



Uh-oh.
New man in town!

Read all about the above events, and of course, your favorite usual columns, within this issue of Panzee.

It's our best one yet!

Bolton Winpenny, C.O.O.
Panzee Press, LLC

Letters to the Editor

I enjoyed the good piece on Protestant churches and LGBT issues. The story overlooked Market Square Presbyterian Church, the most welcoming Presbyterian congregation in our presbytery. We have reached out to the greater LGBT community over the past 15 years, and are the only Presbyterian Church that includes the phrase "sexual orientation" in our mission statement, which is printed in our church bulletin each week and on our website: marketsquarechurch.org.

We have also hosted the Spirits United concert during Pride weekend for the past two years, and last year showed the film, "For the Bible Tells Me So" to a full house. We have held other LGBT-oriented events as well over the past few years.

We believe we are following the gospel message in our outreach to all God's children, and our church leadership is not happy with our national church's position which denies ordination to gays and lesbians.

Change is slow, but it is coming.

Trum Simmons, Elder, MSPC

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Harrisburg Back in the Day:

A retrospective on Gay Living in Harrisburg in the 1970's and 1980's

By Chris Dietz

On June 28th 1969, at 3 AM, a group of queens, tired of being persecuted, spilled out of the Stonewall Inn onto Christopher Street in NYC's Greenwich Village neighborhood, and the ensuing violence became known as the Stonewall Riots. Thus, much like the black civil rights movement began with a woman, who was tired of sitting at the rear of the bus, the modern gay-rights movement had begun.

Persecution at the local level included the Harrisburg Police Department raiding private house parties and forcing those in attendance to board a school bus, in which they were driven downtown to the station. In order to intimidate their captives, the officers pretended to photograph them. Then, the men were charged a \$25 fine and released. When news of the Stonewall Riots, filtered through the gay grapevine, arrived in Harrisburg, the LGBTQ community began to develop a sense that gay rights were not as hopeless as they once thought.

Local Establishments

At that time, connecting with other gays was accomplished by traveling the gay friendly bar circuit. One of the earliest gay friendly bars in Harrisburg was an establishment on the ground floor of the Warner Hotel, located across the street from the Hilton. The entrance was off Strawberry Avenue, and after certain hours, the gays would be free to mingle, but kissing, touching, and yes, even dancing was forbidden. The bar owners would literally chaperone the fellows, but if you were quick, you could play bumpy leg or footsies under the table. The way to express interest in another guy was to buy him a drink and then to chat for awhile. However, many gay ole times were had in the basement bathroom.

Around the same time, the *Clock Bar*, on the corner of 2nd and South Street, named for the many clocks adorning its walls, also entertained a gay clientele. The rules here were much the same as at the Warner; no touching or dancing was permitted. In the late 60's the unofficial dress code was suits and ties. This gave

way to collared shirts with sweaters and slacks in the early 70's. The boys would go shopping every Saturday to get a new outfit. Oh, the shame if you wore the same outfit within a couple of month's time. The other boys would definitely call you out!

Across South Street from the Clock Bar was the *Commerce Diner*. This was the hangout for underage guys. The waitresses were fag hags. It was always "Oh honey" this and "Dear honey" that, and it became a late night Mecca for those who did not find someone to go home with after the bars closed. This was your last chance destination. However, the diner had bright lights, unlike the smoky, dimly lit bars, so those who did not earn high marks in the pretty category had little chance here.

A bar in the Plaza Hotel, where the Market Square bus station now sits, catered to the boys as well. Here the bathroom was downstairs from the bar. This again was the place for romance. It even got to the point where the bartender would shout downstairs, "Last call!"

Sometimes the straight guys would harass gays on the street, so the alley entrances were always preferred. Because these clubs were not exclusively gay, sometimes you had to peek in the window before entering to see if any coworkers or other straight-laced acquaintances were already inside. There were no protections for gays from being fired or otherwise discriminated against, and it was culturally acceptable to do just that. It was the norm when many guys you met at the bars would not acknowledge you the next day on the street, in order to hide their identities. Jobs weren't protected until 1975, when Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp signed an executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment for state jobs.

Much more so than today, gays did not come out to their families or some of their friends. The stigma attached was so large that those who did were often

beaten and kicked out of the house. They were effectively erased from their families. These secrets became very difficult for many gays in committed relationships around the holidays. Each partner would go spend time with their own families, and not have the option of including their lovers.

The train station was known to be a cruisy area. It was truly busy at that time, as there were many sexy travelers coming to and from Harrisburg, the state capital. From a booth in its coffee shop, one could peruse the gentlemen for one who looked inviting. Another area known for quick connections was Riverfront Park, before it had street lights. One gentleman was attacked, given a black eye, and buggered (sexually assaulted) while walking home one night after dark. When his friends commented on how horrible it must have been, he quipped that it was great fun, and he hoped it would happen again!

Then there is the most notorious hookup spot in the city, State Street. It was a bathhouse and small town street corner all rolled into one. From dusk to near dawn – and never so much as when the bars let out – State Street was the place to cruise, meet, and greet. One hour stands, longer-term relationships and lifelong friendships were born on that circuit. Okay, more hookups than lifelong friendships, but both happened! Here you could find what you were looking for, no matter what your fancy. Gays would come from all over to cruise the night away. Often, cars were trolling the block until three or four in the morning. On occasion, the cops would crack down on this type of activity, especially during election years. They would record the license plate numbers of the cars on the circuit. Arrests were frequently made for lewd behavior and for men having sexual relations in cars.

When the bars closed, and if you were invited, after-hours parties are where the night's festivities continued. There you could really let loose and be yourself. Most had already had their fill of alcohol, so these parties could get pretty raucous, even to the point of having sexual relations on top of a ping-pong table. No names, please!

The Clock Bar was eventually rechristened *La Rose Rouge* or *The Rose*. Dancing made its way onto the scene in the mid to late 70's, and The Rose became a hot spot. There were lots of sweaty bodies packed onto the dance floor! The disco era had arrived. It was a time of a little gay, a little straight, a little whatever. And polyester ruled!

Around this time *The Strawberry* opened on 2nd Street, near the location of the Spot. It later closed due to a fire and moved to its current location on 3rd Street. There was also *Pegasus*, now *Garrisons*, on Forster Street. It was open from '84 through '89, until its owner became ill and moved out of the city. *The Archives* was at the current location of the *St. Moritz*. It was known as a dance club and had a centrally located bar, which was great for doing "laps" around in order to show off and be seen! Another dance club, called the *Hideout*, was on a secluded road off of Elmerston Ave. It was the hot place to be, complete with a house DJ and a big dance floor.

If you were looking to get out of Harrisburg, there was the *Railroad House* in Marietta that featured high energy pumping music and a stainless steel dance floor. Gay night was on Sunday. It was a bed and breakfast, with the bar in the basement. People would flock to this club from Philly and Lancaster, so it was a different scene than what could be found in the 'Burg. The place to be on New Year's Eve was *Altland's Ranch* in York. Three to four hundred revelers would be celebrating the dawn of a new year. The Ranch usually hosted weekly parties, which often included drag shows.

Amidst the bustling bar scene were private parties thrown in people's homes. They were by invitation only, and were usually very discreet. On occasion, someone would purchase a couple of reels of gay porn and would host a viewing party.

The Neptune, which most of us are familiar with today, was originally opened as just the half closest to the river. The owners were a gay couple, with one being the financier and the other, a dancer from NYC, running the day to day operations. They decorated the club in the highest fashion of the day, and it be-

came a raging success! They would regularly pack 100 to 150 guys onto the small dance floor at the rear of the bar!

One of Neptune's regulars was a gentleman by the name of Benedict Arnold "Wesley" Trautwein. In the late 1930's, while living in New Orleans, he became a member of the *Jewel Box Review*, a dance troupe of show girls that opened stage shows for *Mae West*. Wesley, or should I say, Ms. Francis Parker, as she was known then, was possibly the first openly cross-dressing drag queen on the circuit in Harrisburg. She would dress up in full costume and take a cab the half-block from her house to The Neptune. On the way home she would invariably be escorted by two of the bar patrons to help keep her upright.

On one such night, Ms. Parker's purse was stolen, so she called the cops. She reported what had happened and they inquired, "You mean your wallet?" She replied, "No, my purse." They asked her again, "You mean your wallet?" "No, my fucking red purse! It was my best one!" was her emphatic retort.

Trautwein was a personal friend of the owners, who broke taboo and allowed him to enjoy the bar in drag. During the day, while he worked for the State Department of Revenue, Trautwein donned a suit and tie, but when twilight rolled around, out came the boas and the pumps. He was a city institution. He would walk his black cocker spaniel, Dennis, every day round 5 PM, frequently doing so wearing men's shoes, a man's hat, and a black slip. Some of the locals would call this "Showtime," recalls Harrisburg resident, Chuck McKee. As you can imagine, he generated a lot of criticism. Dennis was named after an ex-lover of the same name, and by the time Trautwein passed away in 2003, he had owned between six and eight Dennises.

Some of you are no doubt wondering about the lesbian bars. During this time period the gays and the lesbians did not really mingle in the bar scene. During the 70's there was a lesbian bar on Front Street called the Blue Moon, which had dancing. Later, there was the D-GEM on North Front Street, where Morgan's Place now sits. The name stood for the

owners' initials: Dottie, Gracie and Michelle, and it also had dancing.

Local Organizations

In 1980, MCC of Harrisburg, now MCC of the Spirit, was formed as an extension of the Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia, and began to meet in a member's apartment. Through combined efforts, MCC of the Spirit and Dignity, a Catholic gay ministry, gave birth to the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard. As a community resource designed to support those questioning their sexuality, the Switchboard saved the lives of many, many people, through listening and connecting with them in a way that was not previously available in Harrisburg. Once a year, a volleyball tournament was held to generate funding for the Switchboard.

Another group that was, and still is, an important resource in Harrisburg, is Lambda AA. This offshoot of Alcoholics Anonymous is geared directly to those in the gay and lesbian community who are seeking support. Being a homosexual was then, and still can be, depending on your background, a very stressful facet of life. It can be so stressful that a disproportional percentage of the gay population is known to have issues with drugs and alcohol. Lambda AA models a sober lifestyle, but perhaps more importantly, it models a message of self-worth and acceptance as LGBT people who can be out and proud.

Local Community Members

In reflecting on his experiences in Harrisburg, Jim Akers remembers the following: "The center of my social scene, however, was woven by the friendships I made in gay AA and at MCC of the Spirit. I have been blessed to have walked the path of life with so many wonderful, compassionate like-minded people. Harrisburg is a small town with a big city feel. Gays from all over Central PA have moved to Harrisburg, and enriched my life by sharing theirs."

In the early 80's a gay cancer/ plague had begun to invade the community. People were dying of this horrible disease and no one knew anything about it, except that it was a killer. In '81 the first cases were reported in New York City, and a link to pop-

pers was suggested. By the time the disease's cause and method of transmission was discovered in 1984, it had spread far and wide. In Harrisburg, cruising and quick sex still continued, but the rise of the usage of condoms in the gay world, and safe sex in general, was born. This idea was too late for many gays, for they had already contracted the virus. Many people were passing on, even those in unexpected social positions, such as doctors and lawyers.

A local Catholic Priest, Father Sawdy, conducted nearly seventy funerals for those that AIDS took from us. He started the gay outreach called Dignity, which ministered to those the Catholic Church deemed immoral. Sometimes there were two or more funerals a week. One man, Roger, desired to go out with his friends by his side, so he organized a party from his hospital bed in his living room, and passed on during the party in their presence. Community members Bob Kegriss and Russell Lutz recall that the difference in quality healthcare was explicitly evident in how long it took for those who contracted the disease to succumb to it. "If you had poor insurance you only lasted one year. With excellent insurance you were able to last one year and a half." Through this crisis and the loss left in its wake, the local gay community came together more than ever before, and the idea of equal gay rights began to come into its own.

Local Activism

On a national level the civil rights rallies in the 60's opened up the idea that all people deserved to be protected from discrimination by an equal system of laws. Harvey Milk was the first openly gay man elected to a city wide or higher post. He was able to pass a gay rights bill within the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Most unfortunately, he was murdered before he could finish his first year in office. His death and the ridiculously lenient prison sentence for his killer became rallying points for gays across the nation and a year later, in 1979, the first annual gay march on Washington took place.

Back in Harrisburg, in August of 1990, due to an increase in the bashing of gays and lesbians and inadequate police diligence in these cases, a group of concerned citizens convened at a local gay bar to discuss

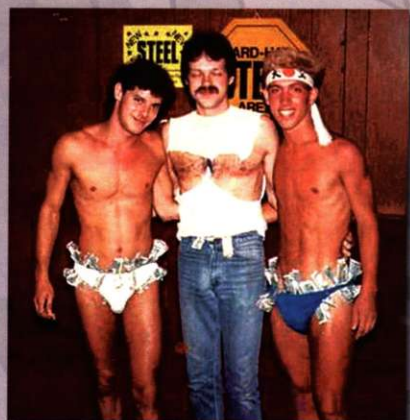
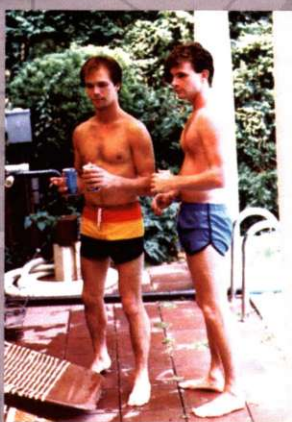
the issue. They were met on the street by the local press. None of the meeting's attendees were willing to go on the record with the media, because their careers were in serious jeopardy if their employers were to find out that they were gay or lesbian. As the chairman of the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard at the time, Dan Miller reluctantly gave a statement to the Patriot News. The community was asking the victims of the bashings to go to the police and speak out, so it only made sense that those with leadership roles should be brave enough to do the same.

Later that fall, the issue of violence against gays and lesbians was brought before Harrisburg City Council, but was removed from the agenda. Miller and a friend from the Switchboard approached a council member at the door to the Council chambers to discern why the agenda was changed. Again the local media was present, only this time conversations were filmed and recorded. That night Dan Miller, gay-rights activist, was featured on all of the local news channels advocating more police protection for the queer community. As he feared, Dan Miller was fired from his job for being a gay man, resulting in a much publicized lawsuit. It took this kind of coverage and exposure to really get the community involved in politics.

Generally speaking, the 70's and 80's were tumultuous for the LGBT community; at times a fabulous party, and at others, a dreadful nightmare. In spite of the loss of so many beautiful souls to a silent killer, much ground was gained with respect to self and community pride. Harrisburg's gay community had begun to come together and find its voice.

Many thanks to those who contributed some of their life's history in order to write this article, including Jim Akers, Bob Kegriss, Russell Lutz, and Chuck McKee. Information was also incorporated from www.mccofthespirit.org, www.friendsofdanmiller.com, and The Patriot News Archives.

Photos provided from
myspace.com/Gay Retro
Harrisburg Produced by
Larry Wilson





How far would you go
to protect a secret?



The Reader

Unlock the mystery

Reviews by Clayton Christopher

The Reader:

A Review by
Clayton Christopher

Heath Ledger won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for becoming the Joker, Sean Penn won Best Actor for portraying Harvey Milk in Milk, Kate Winslet won Best Actress for playing Hanna Schmitz, and Slum Dog Millionaire won best picture. I guess that three out of four correct selections by the Academy isn't bad. After having had the pleasure of experiencing

The Reader, I must say that the Best Picture Oscar was outright robbed from it, in that Slum Dog was selected for the high honor.

The Reader is the delightfully dreadful tale of the second half of the life of a WWII era German woman, hiding a secret that so shamed her that she spent twenty years in prison rather than allowing the truth to come out. The story begins with an affair between the woman, named Hanna Schmitz, and a fifteen year old kid, Michael. Michael falls for Hanna, who is twice his age, in only a few heartbeats of time. As their arrangement develops, she asks him to read aloud to her books of classic literature, such as Homer's Odyssey and Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. After many steamy sexual encounters the boy confesses his love for her, and the very next day, she is gone without a trace.

During a seminar in Law School, the class attends a trial for German war criminals in Nuremberg. Much to Michael's surprise Hanna is one of the defendants. Throughout the course of the trial it becomes apparent that the other female guards on trial are conspiring to set Hanna up as a scapegoat in order to deflect responsibility from them onto her, and thus, allowing her to shoulder the blame for the heinous acts for which they are charged. Michael discovers Hanna's secret shame during her testimony. He is then presented with a chance to exonerate her by revealing the secret, but in doing so, he would break her heart, much as she broke his the day she disappeared.

The second half of the movie is one of the most gut wrenchingly beautiful journeys of love, guilt, shame, and pride that ever graced the silver screen. I would relate more of it to you, but in doing so I would damage the film's impact when you go to experience it for yourself. This is a memorable movie. Everyone involved with its odyssey should be commended for their work! Be prepared, it will move you.

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2nd Annual Gay-Straight Alliance Summit

The 2nd Annual Gay-Straight Alliance Leadership Summit was held on February 26th at Dickinson College in Carlisle. About 150 people lead or attended workshop sessions covering the full spectrum of LGBTQ+ issues. The workshops covered topics such as Networking Allies and Advocacy Groups, Religion & Sexuality, HIV, and Students of Color. Some workshops were designed for students, such as a study of sexuality facets (heath, identity, sexualization, intimacy, and sensuality). Other workshops were set up for advisors, covering such topics as Running a GSA, Parental Concerns, Working with the School, and Legal Options.

The summit spanned the day including breakfast treats during an introduction, and lunch, which was followed by a keynote speaker. The most difficult part of the day was deciding which workshops to attend. Many people you're familiar with throughout Central Pennsylvania's sexual minority organizations were leading the classes, participating in panels, and exchanging ideas. Students from many high school and college GSA clubs were taking in a vast amount of ideas and education while preparing to be tomorrow's leaders.



Participants at one of the Advisor Roundtable workshops:
Front: Rita, Todd, Craig, Michael, Elica, Yvonne. Back row: Olivia, Jenn, Amy



Tomorrow's Leaders: Sean, Nikki, Josh, Chris, Kyleigh, Anna, and Katie: Students from area high schools. Katie: "People should be more accepting."; "We're here to meet and work with other GSAs."; "Schools don't mention it."; "People can be judgmental and rude, like using the word 'faggot'." Josh: "We're not hetero-phobic, but homophobia surrounds the straight world."; "There are so many stereo types; I'm not attracted to everybody with a penis." Sean: "It should be a compliment to a guy if another guy were attracted to him." Nikki: "Girls tend to like gays, but guys don't."



Religion and Sexuality Panel: Larry Hawkins (Lutheran), Eva O'Diam (MCC), Terry Drew Karamen, Angela Conrad Stab, Carl Choper (Rabbi), Howard Dana (UUC)



Deb Bixler, (author of Panzee's Deb Bixler column), was the keynote speaker. She used her gay games gold medal experience as an example of going for your dreams.



Eric St. Clair and Louie Marven, administrators for Common Roads / LGBT Coalition Center, helped to bring the summit together.



Fran Harris for Harrisburg City Council

I had the recent pleasure of speaking with Harrisburg City Council candidate, Fran Harris. She wished to thank Panzee Press for the interview opportunity, as well as the readers for considering her for Council. — *Cathy Nelson*

Paneez Press: Tell me about yourself.

Fran Harris: Well, I had lived most of my life in Washington, DC, until I moved to Central Pennsylvania. I've been working and/or living in the Harrisburg area for about thirteen years. At first I lived outside of the city but moved into Harrisburg about seven years ago. I have come to love it!

My full time job is as the Government Affairs Specialist for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, a professional association. Two of the issues that I focus on that would be relevant to City Council are sustainability (high performance buildings, energy efficiency, clean water, etc.) and historic preservation.

Some of the other high points of my career include serving as the Women's Business Advocate in the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, assisting and supporting women entrepreneurs, and all small business owners, in PA. I also worked at AMP Inc., as a Project Manager/Strategic Planning Analyst, where I managed strategic planning and budget development for 30+ electronics manufacturing and engineering facilities (about 8,000+ people). While I lived in Washington, I worked as a portfolio manager for an investment subsidiary of a bank, managing a multi-million (\$200+million) dollar portfolio.

Paneez Press: What are your credentials for running for City Council?

Fran Harris: I made the decision to run for Harrisburg City Council because I'm a concerned citizen who has become apprehensive about the future strength and prosperity of Harrisburg. I'm not a career politician. I just reached the point where I knew I had to get involved. I've made Harrisburg my home, and I would like to help the city meet its full potential. In addition to my business experience, I think I bring a fresh perspective, enthusiasm, determination and common sense, and a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility. I believe that the principles of transparency, open

government, and accountability, are very strong management principles that result in good government.

Paneez Press: Why do you wish to run, and what are some things you wish to change and/or improve upon?

Fran Harris: I'm a citizen like you and many others, who are concerned about the future of Harrisburg. It's time that we take the hard and smart steps to make sure Harrisburg is strong for decades to come. There will be some tough choices we will need to make, but every tax dollar should be spent wisely and efficiently. There are many complicated issues and the answers are not always clear. But I am determined to work hard and help find the solutions.

I plan to work cooperatively with the other members of City Council and the Mayor, whoever that may be, to try to make government more responsible to taxpayers and more transparent in the way we do business. I believe that elected officials must consider their position a matter of public trust and service. With that we must engage in two-way communication with our citizens. That is the key to good government. So as a matter of practice, I'd like to see all reports, audits, budgets, etc., available online to the public.

Paneez Press: What connection do you have to the GLBT community, and why do you seek the community's support?

Fran Harris: I have been a strong supporter of the GLBT community for many years, both here and in Washington, DC. So many of my friends are from the community, and I cannot imagine my life without them; they are like family to me. I also believe that the GLBT community should be afforded the same rights as other citizens when it comes to jobs, housing, adoption, marriage/civil unions, etc. There is a bill currently in the Pennsylvania Legislature that I support, which would safeguard some of these rights (marriage/civil unions are not included in this bill) for the GLBT community. It has much more support than in previous years, so I am optimistic. Other communities in Pennsylvania have enacted laws ensuring these rights, and I see no reason why we can't do that in Harrisburg.

Paneez Press: Anything else you would like for us to know?

Fran Harris: As I mentioned previously, there are many complicated issues and the answers are not always easy, but I am determined to help to find solutions. But I can't do this without the support of the citizens of Harrisburg; all of us must be involved. **WE** have the opportunity to shape our city's future. **WE** can achieve a progressive vision if all of us work together to make it happen. Voting is the ultimate form of equal political power. So use that power to make your government more accountable and responsive to your needs as citizens.



Mike Thomas for Harrisburg City Council

Recently I had the opportunity of interviewing Mike Thomas, Candidate for Harrisburg City Council. Mike wanted to make sure to thank Panzee for the opportunity, as well as the readers, for allowing another voice to communicate through the magazine.

— Cathy Nelson

Paneez: Tell me about yourself.

Mike Thomas: I'm not a native of Harrisburg. I come from Shamokin in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania but have lived in Harrisburg for over ten years. First I lived on the south side and then I purchased a home on the north side in the 2600 block of 2nd street. I've enjoyed living on both sides of the city and have met some of the nicest people there. I've traveled quite a bit so that's truly a compliment.

I have lived a challenging life, losing my mother at a very early age from MS and being raised by my grandparents. The experience showed me how to respect life and find love in everyone. I have volunteered for many organizations, including the MS Society, Heart Association, and Regional ARC, and continue to put together celebrations of love for children and adults from all over South Central PA who just need to smile. I am considered a "volunteer for love" by those whom I have touched in my life.

Although I come from a very conservative area back in the coal region, I have earned the friendship of people from very diverse backgrounds of culture, race, sexual orientation, and religions. As I live and learn in my professional life, I always keep in mind of the mission of the Central PA Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce: I can represent their mission as I represent all citizens of this great City of Harrisburg.

Paneez: What are your credentials for running?

Mike Thomas: I would bring valuable experience to City Council. This election is unique in that we are electing a mayor, a council, a controller and an elected School Board, so much could be changing. I want to be a part of this change and start fighting for a better public safety policy, and will work toward building better neighborhoods and communities. I know this city has some challenges, as well as many cities in our Commonwealth, so I tell you I am ready for these challenges ahead. In the last ten years

I have served with the State Auditor General in capacities of both Public Assistance Auditor / State Aided Audits, and as a Corporate Officer strictly working directly with Domestic and Foreign Corporations. For eight years I served as the Director of the Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau, where my responsibility was to oversee the collections of millions from municipalities' operating revenues. While serving in the Director capacity, I had the honor of being elected by my fellow directors from around the state as a legislative leader, representing 19 of the 67 counties. This was the first time this happened in the counties' history. I was very proud of that honor given to me.

Paneez: What would you do if you were elected?

Mike Thomas: Let me say this. There are several different committees that council is responsible for. Those that interest me are: economic development, public safety, public works, and budget and finance. I know I can't chair them all, but would like to serve as an honorary member of each, having a voice representing the people of the city, and making an investment in any decision I feel is the right way to govern. During the economic hard times that our commonwealth and our country face, you need good strong and "committed to the people" type leadership, to REPRESENT the people. I hope you give me that chance to lead for you.

Paneez: Why now?

Mike Thomas: Now is a good time for what I can bring: good leadership and solid commitment. There are twelve candidates running, and four seats open. I only ask you to trust me with "1." The democratic process allows people to NOT re-elect them if a member does not do diligence for and by the people. I tell you I can work with anyone willing to work with me. We need this to lead and move ahead. As a part of the board of seven members, I want to listen and learn for the people. These are great words to lead by, and I promise that is exactly what I will do.

Paneez: Why should the GLBT community support you?

Mike Thomas: As I said, we are all one, and we are all connected. Good leadership from me would mean good leadership for all, and GOOD leadership is needed. Ask yourself? Is that what we have now? The GLBT community would definitely be represented, as would every citizen.

Paneez: Is there anything else you would like for Panzee Readers to know?

Mike Thomas: Yes, I am compassionate, independent, and a common sense person who is asking for support; asking for a chance to contribute. I will stand with the community, and ask you to stand with me on May 19th. We can all make this journey together with a single vote. Join me.



Pride Breakfast Returns

Join Pride Festival of Central PA for the return of the annual Pride Breakfast. This year's breakfast will be Saturday April 18, 2009 from 9 AM to 11 AM at MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg. Board and committee members will be at the breakfast to provide information and answer questions about the 2009 Pride Festival, which will be held July 24-26. Applications for both vendor/exhibitor booths at the festival and parade participation will be available at the breakfast. These applications may also be found online at www.harrisburgpride.org. In addition to obtaining

applications, people can also stock up on Pride items such as rainbow flags, magnets, key chains, and t-shirts. A free will donation will be taken to cover the cost of the breakfast and help to raise funds for this year's pride festival.

Tiffany, Lee, Robinson to Perform at Summer Pride Festival

On Tuesday, March 17th at the Green High Heel Race it was announced that the headliner for this summer's Pride Festival of Central PA will be **Tiffany**. In 1987, Tiffany set the record for youngest female recording artist to top the billboard charts with the debut of her self-titled album which included the song "I Think We're Alone Now." Other songs include, "Could Have Been" and "I Saw Him Standing There." Tiffany is also known for her albums, "Dreams Never Die," "The Color of Silence," "Just Me," and "Dust off and Dance." In recent years, Tiffany has been performing at gay pride events. Although she is heterosexual, Tiffany is a strong supporter of gay rights.



Other performers at this year's Pride Festival

include **Charles Lee**,

an accomplished vocalist whose repertoire includes Broadway tunes, urban

blues, classic love songs, and rhythm and blues. Charles has performed on stage with several nationally and internationally known recording artists, including Jeff Kimpland (formerly with Journey), The Temptations, and Charlie Thomas, formerly of The Drifters. With a vocal range that can only be described as phenomenal, Charles Lee appeals to a diverse audience of ages, cultures and genders.



Another featured performer is **Janice Robinson**,

who gained worldwide success in the early-mid 1990s with the Eurodance/Hi-NRG/Italo House group, Livin' Joy, as the lead singer, before going solo in 1999. Her solo debut album, "The Color Within Me," was an earthy, more singer/songwriter Pop/Rock type album released in 1999, and it scored a pop hit with the single, "Nothing I Would Change." On February 10, 2000, Robinson appeared on an episode of the hit show, "Charmed." In 2005, she toured America as an opening act for Tina Turner's U.S. leg of her world tour.



Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania

Statement of Activities 2008

Contributions:..... \$78,661

corporate sponsorships, individual sponsorships,
vendor applications, parade applications and gate
admission

Expenses:

Dues	373	Supplies	2,759
Travel	1,407	Website	890
Printing	1,532	Insurance	1,238
Awards	111	Telephone	74
Storage	1,535	Advertising	2,831
Postage	213	Entertainment	6,275
Security	6,726	Direct Event Costs	15,722
Licenses and Fees	370		
TFEC Administrative Fee	1,250		
Grants (Easch-Potter Scholarship Fund)	2,500		
Total Current Year Expenses:	\$45,856		

Net Profit (Loss)..... \$32,805

The Pride Festival of Central PA Committee is making plans for the next several years which will mark milestones in GLBT history. 2009 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, the event which started the modern day gay rights movement and the tradition of Pride Festivals. 2010 marks the 5th Anniversary of the PrideFest Unity Parade and 2011 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Pride Festival in the mid-state, currently known as the Pride Festival of Central PA.

The Pride Festival of Central PA is excited about the plans for the 2009 festival. This year's theme is "Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights." The STONEWALL Vets will lead off the expanded PrideFest Unity Parade route and our headliner at the Main stage is Tiffany. New to the festival this year is a Second Stage featuring Janice Robinson, a Dance Tent area, and a Family Zone area.

As you can see from our 2008 Statement of Activity, we have been able to start this year on a positive note due to the frugal planning of the pride festival board during this difficult economic time. However, as we continue to grow the festival so does the cost and expense of providing additional programming. Please consider a contribution to the Pride Festival of Central PA by mailing your donation to PO Box 12083, Harrisburg, PA 17108-2083 or by visiting our website at www.harrisburgpride.org and clicking on the donation button. If you or your organization would be interested in volunteering at this year's event please e-mail us at info@harrisburgpride.org or call 717-801-1830. Thank you for your continued support of our community.

The financial report was prepared by the festival's fiscal sponsor The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Information on the report is available from Ellen Kyzer, ellen@tfec.org, 717-236-5040.

Deb Bixler

It is only 6 Weeks To The NEW You!™

Spring is in the air, and the warmer weather will soon be upon us. Now is the time that everyone is thinking about joining a gym or going on a diet.

My natural diet and healthy living program has changed the lives of hundreds of people all over the world. The **6 Weeks To The NEW You™** diet is an online weight loss "camp." Each participant receives regular emails outlining day-by-day, step-by-step changes, which are supported by phone calls from me. I am available as your personal diet coach throughout the 6 week program. Dieters sign up for the program online, and then, over a 6 week period, follow a series of small changes that fit in with any busy lifestyle. The program is a guided tour through articles, videos, cooking lessons, etc. online with small one-day-at-a-time changes and suggestions made each day. www.Wow6Weeks.com

The beauty of the **6 Weeks To The NEW You™** program is that I am there to keep you interested for 6 weeks. Don't be one of those people who give up on their resolutions by mid-April again this year. Those who finish the program have lost 8-33 pounds in only 6 weeks! Some people even start over again after going through the program once.

I am really excited to announce that I have also created a complementary retail product that is selling in area stores and fitness clubs. The retail version of the **6 Weeks To The NEW You™** diet program includes an overview or summary audio CD that gives you more information on how to lose weight faster. A password is included with the CD to use online after the retail purchase, which activates your personal online coaching part of the program.

Actually, the online coaching and personal calls from me are the most important part because you will develop new habits that will last a life time. Healthy living is not a destination like most diets imply. A diet is really a way of eating that sustains life. **6 Weeks To The NEW You™** diet plan is a way of life. That is why it works. It will be the last diet you ever go on.

The **6 Weeks To The NEW You™** program is an affordable natural diet program that sells for a one time investment of only \$27 at:

www.Wow6Weeks.com

- No special meals to buy
- No meeting fees
- No pills
- A personal diet coach included
- Easy to follow recipes
- 100% satisfaction guaranteed!

Hundreds of dieters from around the world have joined the online version of **6 Weeks To The NEW You™**, and the retail **6 Weeks To The NEW You™** program is in PA stores now. For a listing of retail sales locations or to join the program online visit:

www.Wow6Weeks.com





Capital Region Stonewall Democrats

Jeff Welshans, Chair
Capital Region Stonewall Democrats
www.CapitalStonewall.org

CHEERS to Representative Dan Frankel and the record seventy-eight co-sponsors of HR 300, which would ban discrimination in housing and jobs against GLBT people. **CHEERS** to the State Government Committee who voted to send the bill to the full House on an 11-10 party-line vote -- and **JEERS** to there not being even one fair-minded Republican on the committee who supported it! Finally, **CHEERS** to the hundreds of people who came to Harrisburg from all corners of the state on March 17th to Rock the Capital and rally and lobby in support of this bill.

JEERS to hypocrisy. A previous study showed that the red states and their "old-fashioned values" had higher divorce rates than the blue states. Now a new nationwide study by the Harvard Business School discovered that the biggest consumers of online pornography live in conservative states. Indeed, eight of the top ten pornography consuming states voted for McCain over Obama. Residents of the twenty-seven states that passed laws banning gay marriages boasted 11% more porn subscribers than states that don't explicitly restrict gay marriage. States where a majority of residents agreed with the statements: "I have old-fashioned values about family and marriage," and "AIDS might be God's punishment for immoral sexual behavior," bought more porn subscriptions than states where a majority disagreed.

CHEERS to all the candidates and participants who attended our Meet the Candidates Happy Hour Mixer at the Harrisburg Maennerchor on March 31st. We learned a lot about the candidates, and you can see who we endorsed -- along with the candidates' answers to our questionnaire -- on our website www.CapitalStonewall.org

JEERS to former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum, who just doesn't know when to shut up and go away. Asked if he agreed with the de facto Republican Party leader Rush Limbaugh in hoping that President Obama fails, Santorum replied, "absolutely we hope that his policies fail. I believe his policies will fail, I don't know, but I hope they fail." I guess putting politics ahead of what's good for the country is a hard habit to break.

CHEERS to Attorney General Eric Holder, who promised that the DEA will halt federal raids of state-law-abiding medical marijuana dispensaries. Medical marijuana is currently legal in thirteen states. **JEERS** to the remaining 37 states where, in spite of the established medical value of marijuana, doctors are permitted to prescribe cocaine and morphine -- but not marijuana.

JEERS to the \$200 million dollars big business is pouring into a misinformation campaign about the Employee Free Choice Act. Those who say that the act eliminates the "secret ballot" are lying. The truth is that there are currently two ways to form a union: either through majority sign-up or through a National Labor Relations Board election. Today the company decides which union organizing method the workers must follow. This legislation simply allows workers, not their bosses, to choose which method to use. Visit www.FreeChoiceAct.org to learn more facts to counter big business' lies.

JEERS yet again to the Log Cabin Republicans. On January 30th, the Log Cabins congratulated newly elected Republican National Committee Chair Michael Steele. Just three weeks later, Steele responded to a question on whether Republicans should consider civil unions for same-sex couples. His response was: "No, no no. What would we do that for? What are you, crazy? No. Why would we backslide on a core, founding value of this country? I mean, this isn't something that you just kind of like, oh, well, today I feel, you know, loosey-goosey on marriage." It's actually sad watching the Log Cabins come back to be battered by the abusive Republican Party again and again and again.

I like ending on a non-political note, so **CHEERS** to the Boys of Summer as the Harrisburg Senators return to City Island for their 23rd season. The home opener is April 16th against their bitter rivals, the Reading Phillies. However, a big **JEERS** to the inevitable return of my nightmares about the Senators' mascot Rascal. What IS that thing anyway?



Rock the Dome Rally & Lobby Day

Two buses carried one hundred people from Philadelphia, another bus carried approximately fifty from Pittsburgh, and another seventy or so people gathered from across the state and from our own area. They met in St. Michael's Lutheran Church for lunch and lobbying preparation, walked up into the Capital Rotunda for a rally, and then they spread out through the capitol to meet with their respective legislators. All this was to promote House Bill 300, and make discrimination against sexual minorities illegal in Pennsylvania.



Above: Busloads filed in for lunch donated and served by Jamie and Bolton.



Above: St. Michael's opened their main chamber after it became obvious that the huge turn out wasn't going to fit in the downstairs meeting hall. Jake Kaskey of Equality Advocates led the training upstairs, while Andy Hoover of ACLU covered downstairs.



Above: Rep. Babette Josephs uses her influence as the Chair of the House State Government Committee to encourage legislators to vote for this bill, and shame those that won't stand up for equality.



Above: Rep. Cherelle Parker was one of many legislators who spoke to promote House Bill 300. Approximately twenty other legislators were named as they made their presence known. Cherelle helped Rock the Dome with an energetic speech. Although heterosexual, she insisted that she be permitted to work for a sexual minority run business as well as be allowed to move into a neighborhood with a majority of gay residents.

Left: Representative Dan Frankel promotes his bill as approximately two hundred and twenty people rally on the steps behind him and encircle the news media.

Vote YES to HB300!



FRIDAY, MAY 1ST

- Event starts at 6 PM.
- Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door and \$150 for VIP (includes open bar, preferred seating, meet and greet with Sandra Bernhard!)
- Tickets on sale March 15th - Visa and MasterCard accepted for purchases.
- Food from over a dozen of the areas finest restaurants from 6-9 PM.
- Sandra Bernhard performs at midnight.
- 1800's Carnival Theme, including street performers of all types from fire eaters, to jugglers, 2 stages of entertainment and much more!
- Live and Silent Auctions on many items and services - all proceeds benefit Caring Together and the AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania.



FEATURING:

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ThreeOlives
VODKA SPIRITS



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of South Central Pennsylvania


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BGLQT Listings for South Central Pennsylvania

BARS		SPRITUAL	SOCIAL	YOUTH
Harrisburg	York			
Brownstone Lounge 412 Forster St. (717) 234-7009 M-F: 11a-2a S,S: 5p-2a Brownstone Lounge.com	Club XS 36 West 11th Ave (717) 846-6969 Daily: 4p - 2a ClubXSYork.com	MCC: Metropolitan Community Church MCCotS 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 236-7387 MCCofTheSpirit.org	Volley Ball Baughman Memorial United Methodist New Cumberland Jim Akers 717-233-3172	Common Roads CmmnRds Hbg 221 N. Front Street Harrisburg, PA Common Roads CmmnRds Lanc. 538 W. Chestnut St. Lancaster, PA 17403 (717) 920-9534 CommonRoads.org
	Lancaster	Vision of Hope MCC 130 East Main St. (VOH-MCC) Mountville, PA 17554 (717) 285-9070 visionofhopemcc.org	PA Womens Circle PAWomens Circle.com	S.A.L.E. Student Advocating LGBTA Equality Shippensburg ship.edu/~msa ^SALE.htm
Liquid 891 891 Eisenhower (717) 939-3590 Thu 5p-Midnight Fri, Sat 5p-2a Sun 11a-Midnight Liquid891.com	The Tally Ho 201 W. Orange St. (717) 299-0661 Daily: 8p - 2a	UCH: Unitarian Chch of Harrisburg 1280 Clover Lane Harrisburg, PA 17113 (717) 564-4761 HarrisburgUU.org	Pennsmen Pennsmen.org	Penn State Capital Alliance kma225@psu.edu hbg.psu.edu/clubs/capitalalliance/
Neptune's Lounge 268 North St. (717) 233-0581 Every Day: 5p-2a	Sundown Lounge 429 N. Mulberry St. Lancaster, PA	Unitarian Universal of Lancaster (UUCL) 538 W. Chestnut St. Lancaster, PA 17603 (717) 393-1733 interweave.lancaster.pa@gmail.com	Renaissance of South Eastern PA (ROSE) (717) 332-1247 130 Main Steel Mountville, PA RenaissanceSEPA@aol.com	Alvernia GSA 400 St. Bernardine St. Reading, PA 19607 brou3391 ^alvernia.edu
Stallions 716 N. 3rd St. (717) 232-3060 Daily: 7p-2a StallionsClub.com	Belvedere Inn 402 N. Queen St. Lancaster, PA (717) 394-2422 BelvedereInn.biz	Unitarian Universal of Gettysburg 136 S. Statton St. Gettysburg, PA (717) 334-2929 uugettysburg.org	Rainbow Bowling League ABC East Lanes 1001 Eisenhower Harrisburg, PA (717) 877-2659	Planned Parenthood of North East PA SPECTRUM LGBT Youth Sprrt 48 South 4th St. 2nd Flr Reading, PA PPNEP.org
704 Strawberry Café 714 N. 3rd St. (717) 234-4228 Daily: 4p-2a	Spring Grove Altland's Ranch 8505 Orchard Rd. (717) 225-4479 Fri,Sat 8p-2a AltlandsRanch.com		Reading Railmen www.readingrailmen.com	
Sunbury CCs 555 Klinger Rd. (570) 286-6022 Thu, Fri, Sat: 8p-2a Sun: 3:00p - ? MySpace ^OfficialCCsBar	Reading Red Star Saloon 11 S. 10th. St. (610) 375-4116 Wed-Sat: 9p-2a	HEALTH ACA: AIDS Community Alliance of S. Central PA 401 Division St #100 Harrisburg, PA 17110 (800) 867-1550 ACA-PA.com	Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond (GOBAB) GOBAB.org	ENTERTAINMENT Central PA Womyn's Chorus CPWChorus.org
Political Stonewall Dmcrats CapitalStonewall.org	NoFee Event Listings	Caring Together (CarTog) HIV Care Collaboration (717) 851-3643 familyfirsthealth.org/ctprogram.html		HBG Men's Chorus HarrisburgMens Chorus.org
Rainbow EquUality Advocates Lay Led Ministry of the Unitarian Church of Hbg AlannaBerger@ Hotmail.com	Panzee@ PanzeePress .com	Lambda AA Gay & Lesbian AA Friends Meeting House 6th and Herr St Harrisburg Jim H. 717-379-3828	COMMUNITY LGBT Center Coalition 200 North 3rd St 8th Floor P.O.Box 678 Harrisburg PA 17108 CentralPaLgbt Center.org	Art Assoc. HBG 21 N. Front Street Harrisburg 717-236-1444 ArtAssoc OfHbg.com
PRIDE Pride CP Pride Festival of Central PA Harrisburg Pride.org	PAGEANT Miss Drag All-Star (610) 573-8315 MissDrag ^AllStar.com	HIV Support Mulberry Art Stud. 21 N. Mulberry St. Lancaster. Chris (717) 397-0370	Rainbow Rose Community (717) 380-1071 @RainbowPet Creations 305 N. Queen St. Lancaster RainbowRose Community.org	Meat Locker Art Gallery 923 N. third St. Harrisburg, PA
Lancaster Pride LancasterPride 2008.org	BUSINESS Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce 3111 N. Front St Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 213-5034 CPGLCC.org			3.12 ThreeTwelve.net
Reading Pride ReadingPride Celebration.com				Arthouse Lounge 217 N. 2nd St. Harrisburg, PA

BGLQT Listings for South Central Pennsylvania

MONDAYS	THURSDAYS	Wed Apr 1	Mon Apr 13	Fri Apr 24
Club XS 9:30p Wii Night	Club XS College Night 18+	HIV Support 6:00 PM 1stWed	MCCofthe Spirit Sharing Our Caring Dinner 6:30a 2nd Mon	Liquid 891 9:00p AJ Shanti Fresh from Europe
Neptune's Free Pool & Buffet	Liquid 891 8:00p Bingo	Fri Apr 3	MCCofthe Spirit AIDS Consumers Group 5p 2nd Mon.	Altland's Ranch Karaoke
CPWC 7:00p Women's Chorus Rehearsal Colonial Park UCC	Stallions Industry Aprcn Night Strawberry 9:30p Karaoke	Club XS 8:00pm 1st Fri Leather/Bear Altland's Ranch	Stonewall Dems @ check website Monthly Meeting	MCC of the Spirit 7:00 PM LastWeek Scrabble
HBG Men's Chorus 7:00p Rehearsal Unitarian Church of Harrisburg	MCCoftheSpirit 7p Praise Team	Slow Dance Every Hour 1st Fri		Sat Apr 25
Lambda AA 8:00pm Meeting	MCCoftheSpirit Prayer Group Home of Fern & Laura	Pride Show Tours @The Cellar Dame Glenda Presents	Wed Apr 15 MCC of the Spirit 6:00 PM 3rd Wed. Board Meeting	Liquid 891 4th Sat. Free Emergency Personel Admission
	VOH-MCC 8:00 p AA Meeting		MCC of the Spirit Pastoral Care Meeting 7p 2nd Wed	MCC of the Spirit 7:00 PM Last Sat. Pinnochle
TUESDAYS	Penn State Capital	Sat Apr 4		
Brownstone Free Darts	Alliance / Mdtlwn Weekly Meeting 5p	Pride Show Tours @Club Z Dame Glenda	HIV Support 6:00 PM 3rd Wed.	Sun Apr 26
Club XS Brianna's Movie Night	Library Room 302	Transcental Dinner 6:00pm email for location	Thu Apr 16	Club XS 6p 4th Sun. Black, Blue & Bears
Neptune's Free Pool		Transcental 8:30pm Monthly Meeting @MCCofthe Spirit	Sharing Our Caring @MCCoftheSpirit Dinner 6:30p	VOH-MCC
Red Star 10:00pm Trivia	FRIDAYS			11:00 AM 4th Sun. HIV/AIDS Support Group
Stallions 9:00pm Trivia	Liquid 891 5:00p Hot Flash Fridays For Women of the 70's, 80's, and 90's	Sun Apr 5	Fri Apr 17	VOH-MCC
MCCoftheSpirit 7p Choir Rehearsal	ArtHouse Lounge 3:00 PM	Club XS 1st Sun Ladies Tea Dance Drag King Contest Free Food, Pool	Liquid 891 10p 891 Divas Drag Show	12:00 PM 4th Sun. Jubilation Prase Tm.
VOH-MCC 7p Joyful Noise Choir	SOEX Exhibition	VOH-MCC 5:00 PM 1stWeek Men's Group Reading Pride 1pm @Suburban Tavern Suds on Sunday	Altland's Ranch Country Line Dancing 2nd Fri. Pride Show Tours @CC's Dame Glenda	Miss Hbg America @Liquid 891 8pm ACA- PA noon @City Island AIDS Walk 2009
WEDNESDAYS	Common Roads 7p @UUC of Lanc.			
Club XS Cash Bingo Common Roads Benefit	Safe Space for youth Lambda AA 8:00pm Meeting			Mon Apr 27
Neptune's Free Pool & Buffet				VOH-MCC
Stallions 9:00pm Karaoke				11:00 AM 4th Mon. HIV/AIDS Support
	SATURDAYS	Thu Apr 9	Sat Apr 18	Tue Apr 28
Strawberry 7:30p Bingo	Brownstone Bear Night with Woolfish Capital City Bears	MCCofthe Spirit 6:00 PM 2nd Thur Grief/Loss Support Rainbow Rose	Brownstone Bear Night 3rd Sat. MCC of the Spirit 1p 3rd Sat. Bingo	Lancaster Pride Last Tue. Support Pride Night @ Isaac's
MCCotS 7:00p Bible Study	Stallions Ladies Night in Twin Peaks Bar	7:00 PM 2nd Thu Meeting	Pridefest of C PA 9:00p @ MCC Pride Breakfast	Pride CP 7:30 PM 4thWeek Parade Meeting
	ArtHouse Lounge 3:00 PM SOEX Exhibition	Fri Apr 10 Take 147 9:00p @Liquid 891 Live Music Altland's Rnch 2nd Fri Beer & Free Pizza	Sun Apr 19	Fri May 1
		Pride Show Tours @Club XS Dame Glenda	3.12 church service 10:30 AM @Unity of Palmyra	Black / White Party Club XS 6:30p Sandra Bernhard AIDS Benefit
	SUNDAYS		Mon Apr 20	
	Club XS 10:00pm Sin Night (Service Industry) and Karaoke	Liquid 891 5:30p WIIN Networking Mtg ROSE Transgender Meeting 8p 2nd Fri	CPGLCC 6:30 PM 3rd Mon. Board of Directors 3211 N. Front Street	Altland's Ranch Slow Dance Every Hour 1st Fri.
	Liquid 891 11:00 am Brunch		CPGL Chamber 6:30 AM @3211 North Front	Sat May 2
	Stallions Sizzling Singles Night	Sun Apr 12	Board Meeting	Reading Pride @TBA
	MCCoftheSpirit Service 9am, 10:30 am, 7pm	VOH-MCC 12p Jubilation 2nd Sun. Praise Team		Bingo Tournament
	UCH Service 9:15am, 11:00 am	Pennsmen 4:00p @Neptunes	Thu Apr 23	Miss Gay PA Am. Miss Northeast
	VOH-MCC 10:00am Sunday worship	Meeting 2nd Sun.	Liquid 891 9:30p Hunk a Mania Live	

Panzer Calendar

Positive Living

by Christopher J. Kupchik

When I was 19, I got a job working as a counselor for elementary kids at a day camp in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania. The camp itself provided the kids a variety of great things to do including playing basketball and soccer, taking hikes and, of course, swimming. Oh, how the kids loved the swimming part! If they had their way, the kids I worked with would literally skip every other activity available to them at camp and swim all day.

Once I began working with people with HIV/AIDS in 2002, I never even considered what it would be like to have infected children on my caseload. Then, boom, one day I was assigned to oversee the cases of three elementary-aged HIV positive children and their HIV infected mother.

I had to quickly learn that there are special needs when providing care – both medical and psychosocial – to children who are infected with HIV. I worked very hard to try to understand how the virus works in the bodies of kids and how and what medications were available for children who were infected with the virus. I also had to educate myself about any special social service programs designed just for kids with medical needs so that I could help attain such services for them. Despite all I learned during this period of my career, perhaps the one “lesson” about this that I remember the most is that these kids wanted to be just that – KIDS!!

They didn’t really care they had HIV. For all they knew, they had a sickness and had to take pills. But, once they popped their pills, they wanted to go outside and play with their friends or watch cartoons on TV. I don’t know why this was a surprise to me, but it was. So, I shifted my focus of learning about how to best help these kids by finding

things that helped them be kids!

I discovered a place called Camp Dreamcatcher, located in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. It is designed specifically for children infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. They gather at the camp each August to enjoy all of the usual fare you’d expect at a camp designed for young people aged 5 to 17. They also offer these kids – many of whom are dealing with the HIV/AIDS infection of a loved one or their own infection – the opportunity to deal with the emotions they may be experiencing.

Additionally, they have many counselors and professional medical staff available for the kids who attend this camp. The best part? It’s all FREE!! Camp Dreamcatcher is funded, according to their website, by the United Way and donations made from individuals and corporations.

Their website also has online forms for campers to complete to try to obtain a spot at their camp in August. Of course, there are also opportunities for others to volunteer their time to serve at the camp.

As an HIV case manager, I referred several kids to this camp and heard nothing but good things from them and their parents after they attended. But, I say, judge for yourselves! If you are interested in learning more about this camp – especially if you have or know of a child who is HIV positive or dealing with HIV/AIDS personally, or if you’re interested in volunteering – visit their website for more information. Their site is campdreamcatcher.org.

Who knows? If you volunteered for a camp like this maybe you can also enjoy watching the kids play sports, hike and – of course – swim all day!

ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG

By Carrie Wissler-Thomas



The Magnificent Seven [Lively Artists] Return to AAH!

The popular plein air painters known as "The Seven Lively Artists" will once again exhibit their varied works at the Art Association of Harrisburg, 21 North Front Street, opening with a reception on Friday, April 3, through May 7. Sponsors of the exhibition are Mr. and Mrs. Derek Hathaway. The exhibition reception will be hosted by AAH Board Members David Morrison and Bill Wollyung.

Formed in the 1950's by seven young artists who enjoyed painting together and meeting to talk about their art, "The Seven Lively Artists" has now evolved into a loosely-knit group of approximately 18 painters...all men. (The rationale for the "men-only" rule is that the group goes on week-long painting expeditions and female significant others would be jealous if women artists went along!)

Earl Blust, AAH Board Member, is the sole remaining member of the original group. Others who are longer-time members are Karl Foster, Don Lenker, Dominick Brandt, Edward Webber, Bruce Johnson, and Joseph John Dudding. Newer to the Livelies are John McNulty, Jonathan Frazier, Bill Kerman, David Henry, Brian Eppley, Robert Hughes, Scott Meier, Steve Wetzels, Barry Ginder, Bob Zimmerman, and Ralph Hocker.

Jonathan Frazier, a musician as well as an artist, will provide the music for the opening reception on April 3, 5-8 PM.



Brian Eppley's Beach Day



The Livelies habitually travel to Cape Cod to paint for a week every summer, and spend a long weekend painting in the winter at Warm Springs Lodge in Perry County. Many of the paintings in the AAH exhibit will reflect scenes from these popular locales. (For a preview of the exhibit, visit the AAH Sales Gallery where several of the Livelies regularly consign their work.)



David R. Henry

Gallery hours at the Art Association of Harrisburg are 9:30 AM to 9 PM Monday through Thursday, 9:30 to 4 Friday, 10 to 4 on Saturday, and 2 to 5 on Sundays. Call 717-236-1432.

For more information, or visit www.artassocofhbg.com.

-Carrie Wissler-Thomas, President



Bruce Johnson's Eastern Europe

Liz OUT Loud

by Liz Bradbury

Don't Support Our Biggest Enemies and Expect Us Not To Care

Recently, a local progressive (and pro-GLBT) official chose to announce his candidacy for reelection at the Knights of Columbus Hall. In my opinion, anyone who understands the national hierarchy of conservative organizations could see this as a major "Rick Warren - style" mistake.

The progressive pro-civil rights community should be painfully aware of exactly whom our most powerful enemies are. Don't think it's groups like the Fred "God Hates Fags" Phelps family, or the creepy Repent America people. Sure they're annoying and rude, but these crackpots have little power to take our rights away.

Far more dangerous are the huge far right groups like the 700 Club, Focus on the Family, and Mormon lobbying organizations. One of the biggest far right organizations is the conservative Catholic fraternity, the Knights of Columbus. At 1.75 million members, and with 14,000 councils, this men only organization is the largest of its kind in the world.

The KOC raises money for a variety of far right causes. These causes include: ending reproductive freedom; promoting religion in public schools; ending stem cell research; and, one of their favorite causes, fighting against GLBT rights.

Thousands of Knight's of Columbus councils contributed money for Prop 8. See the KOC contributors listed at www.sfgate.com/webdb/prop8. Reports indicate that the second highest organizational contributor to Prop 8, after Mormons, was the KOC.

In PA, much of the lobbying and funding for anti-gay State Constitutional Amendments to ban legal recognition of same-sex families comes from the Knights of Columbus. In PA, KOC actions also tried to prohibit adoption by gay and lesbian people, and stop the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in the civil rights law. The KOC proudly announces their hundreds of thousands of dollars donated toward these efforts. Their web site says marriage

"is under siege in our culture" by the movement to legalize same-sex unions.

Locally, the Knight's of Columbus Hall in Allentown is a rallying place for the opponents of GLBT rights. It was there that much of the organization of referendum petitions to overturn the addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to the Allentown's Human Relations ordinance took place.

In that Knights of Columbus Hall, members called us horrible names, accused us of child abuse, immorality, and crime. They worked to get signatures by using appallingly misleading tactics, telling people they were signing "Green Space" petitions, bingo sign-in sheets, free speech endorsements, etc. Then they told outright lies, saying the law would force churches to marry us, or that landlords would have to give priority to gay tenants, etc. While hundreds of members of the GLBTA community organized for fairness and equality to successfully fight the referendum effort, it was Knights of Columbus members who kept publicly insisting that if the ordinance remained in place, "naked people would be running in the streets." This proved to be false, by the way.

There is no local parallel to the way the KOC works against GLBT rights. No Neo Nazi band in the Lehigh Valley has hundreds of public members and a big bar/restaurant where candidates might have receptions. Obviously, nobody running for office would spend money in the Ku Klux Klan Hall, even if it was just a catering business. But anti -GLBT actions are still seen by much of the population as acceptable. When an event is held in an anti-gay place, the GLBT community is expected to disregard it. The worst part is, our own community doesn't always speak out against these Rick Warren slaps in the face.

Whether it's the Boy Scouts, or a business denying domestic partner benefits, or a Democrat asking us to "understand," every time we do not stand together to reject second-class treatment, we slow our progress toward equality.

Liz Bradbury is the Executive Director of the GLBT advocacy organization PA Diversity Network and the publisher of the Valley Gay Press newspaper. She is also the author of the Lesbian mystery/romance, Angel Food and Devil Dogs - a Maggie Gale Mystery



The Commentary of UNCLE ED

PROP 8 is now in the hands of the California State Supreme Court. Today became the day that the highest courts of California heard the oral arguments as to whether the law was constitutional. Thanks to a good friend of mine who resides in California, but would like to remain anonymous, I was given access to nearly live feed as to who said what and when they said it, during the arguments. Knowing that I was going to have access to the live court proceedings, I decided to do something that would upset most people in the GLBT community - I decided to put myself in a seat next to Kenneth Starr. I did this to feel as if I were on his side during the argument, to try to understand from where he was coming. In a nut shell, here is what I got out of my invested time: I was disappointed with myself that I would invest time away from my job to witness a proceeding that was used by Mr. Starr to make a mockery of the judicial system we have all been raised to honor and respect. This issue was before the highest courts of California because the majority of the "straight" citizens in California were, on November 4th, not happy with the California Supreme Court's May 2008 ruling that gay marriage be legalized. I give Mr. Starr this - he gave a very convincing argument, but it's no less than I expected from such an orally manipulative person. The arguments from the plaintiffs could have been better. A decision is required within ninety days. I already have a sense of what the outcome will be, but will wait for a decision before I comment further.

HB 300 has officially made it to the legislature for review and debate. I have used this bill to strike

up a conversation with several co-workers, just to get a feel of where people stand on this issue. Not surprisingly, just about everyone I spoke with thus far is in support of this bill. Asking further, "Would you support civil unions over gay marriage?" I was surprised at the responses. The vast majority of people said they had no problem with a civil union. This comes from people all with different upbringings, religious beliefs, family values, and political opinions. The legislature of this state, as well as several other states, prefer to use the words "gay marriage" because they know that the voters will surely vote NO because of the term. If we could get the legislature to drop the term "gay marriage" and start focusing on "civil union," I feel we would be successful in getting this on the referendum ballot.

Just the other day Bolton and Jamie visited with me for Sunday brunch at the Harrisburg Hilton. I commented to Bolton that I was sort of at a loss as to what to write about in the April publication. I expressed that I felt a need to give President Obama a break to see where the current policies and stimulus would take us in the next few months. Little did I know on that day, as we are all finally getting those TV commercials from the '08 presidential election out of our memory blogs, we are entering one of the most ugly, name calling, mud slinging, and possibly racist elections in my lifetime within the City of Harrisburg.

Mayor Stephen Reed has announced he will be seeking an unprecedented eighth term as Harrisburg's mayor. On the Democratic ticket, running against the mayor, will be Linda Thompson, Les Ford, and Eric Papenfuse. At the time of this writing, no Republicans have announced themselves as candidate. You may want to strap on a seat belt before you start reading my article in next months publication. I will be focusing on the candidates within our city running in the May 19th primary.



Easter Bread

Viktor can sigh in relief as Easter is finally arriving. He keeps forgetting that I follow certain traditions at this time of year, and I tend to give him the flat-eyed stare when he suggests going to a steakhouse on Fridays. Although I personally don't, he has told me that Germans also give up things during the Lent season. His spinster Aunt Heidi has given up sex for Lent continuously for the past 40-some years. He will point out that for Aunt Heidi's looks, it really isn't much of a religious sacrifice.

Easter is the time of renewal and new hope. There's an old Italian saying: "Natale con I toui, la Pasqua con chi voui – "Christmas at home and Easter with whomever you wish." With our friends and neighbors, whom we've only seen briefly rushing to and from our homes during the winter, it is like returning home anyway.

This recipe, Easter Bread, was always special in my family and can be found in all the bakeries in South Philly throughout the Easter season. My family preferred making them at home rather than purchasing. We would always make at least one large one for the family and several of the small ones to be given out as gifts. Our neighbors and friends were surprised the first time we gave them out, but now look forward to our annual pilgrimage around the neighborhood to their homes. I have been asked for the recipe by so many people, I thought it might be nice to share with everyone.

Easter bread is braided and made with the eggs tucked into the braids. Some cooks use raw eggs because the eggs will bake along side the bread. As the bread rises it creates a protective pocket and insulates them from the direct heat of the oven. My family always hard boiled them prior to placing in the bread to prevent salmonella from the eggshells. If you decide to use the raw egg method, be sure to wash the eggs thoroughly before placing them in the bread.

The egg has always been a symbol of hope and renewal, and eating an egg at Easter marks the end of the abstinence of Lent. Viktor's family has the tradition of eating soft-boiled eggs on Easter morning to mark the holiday.

In the Greek tradition, they make a similar bread, and always dye the eggs red in remembrance of the blood. My family liked having the pastel colors.

The use of the anise seed is important. It gives a rich scent to the bread and comes from a plant long known for its soothing digestive qualities.

Here is to hoping for a new beginning this Easter season and from Viktor and me, our heartfelt best wishes to you all. Happy Spring!



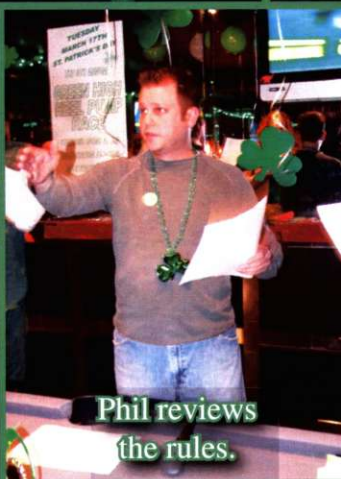
Easter Bread

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 (.25 oz.) package active dry yeast
- 2 eggs uncooked
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup warm milk
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened
- 5 hardboiled eggs
- 1/2 cup chopped mixed candied fruit
- 1/4 cup chopped blanched almonds
- 1/2 teaspoon anise seeds
- extra virgin olive oil

In a mixing bowl, combine 1 cup flour, sugar, yeast and salt. Add milk and butter; beat 2 minutes on medium speed. Add 2 eggs and 1/2 cup of flour; beat 2 minutes on high. Stir in fruit, nuts and anise seed; mix well. Stir in enough remaining flour to form soft dough. Turn on lightly floured surface; kneed until smooth and elastic, 6-8 minutes. Place in greased bowl; turn once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour. Dye the remaining eggs to color of your choice. After dried, rub lightly with oil. Punch dough down. Divide in half; roll each piece into 24" rope. Loosely braid ropes and tuck eggs into openings. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 30 minutes. Bake at 350 for 30-35 minutes until golden brown. Remove from pan; cool on wire rack.

Green High Heel Race

The St. Patrick's Day Green High Heel Race raised over \$5000 for the entertainment of the 2009 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania. From left to right in the below photos: Jamie ran for Neptune's, William ran for Tap Room, Jim ran for Brownstone, Zack ran for Strawberry, and Roxy ran for Liquid 891.



Biscuit presents Jim awards for most money raised by a bar (Brownstone), and most money raised by an individual. (left)

Jamie accepts two awards: best heels and fastest runner. (right)



VISION OF HOPE MCC

The Bible and Homosexuality: Queering the Bible Part II

by: Revs. Debbie Coggin and Jennifer Glass

In our last article we began introducing what we call "Queering the Bible," which is a section we include in our Bible and Homosexuality workshop. We use the word Queer and its definition of being "different," as used in The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary (www.m-w.com). In addition, we study and subscribe to the scholarship of Queer Biblical Interpretation, which seeks to disrupt traditional heterosexual readings of the Bible by studying the bible, the ancient world, and the original languages of ancient Hebrew and Greek.

For this article we want to look at particular Queer texts that affirm same-sex loving relationships, such as David and Jonathon and Ruth and Naomi. While it is extremely difficult to ascertain the sexual orientation of ancient people, nevertheless, there is a lot of speculation as to whether or not Jonathon and David were in a gay relationship. However, gay or not, based upon the Biblical writings, Jonathon and David had a deeply emotional relationship. These two men seem to have a same-sex relationship. Several passages may cause us to question whether they were just faithful friends or something more.

For instance, consider verses 1-4 in chapter 18 of First Samuel. David had killed the giant Goliath and was taken to meet King Saul. During that meeting, Saul's son, Jonathon was instantly taken with David. In some Bibles, this section in chapter 18 has the title "Jonathon's Covenant with David" and the New Revised Standard Version reads, "When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was

wearing, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him; as a result, Saul set him over the army. And all the people, even the servants of Saul, approved." Further, the people of Israel liked David and he was very successful. In fact, Saul becomes jealous of David. There are attempts to kill David, and eventually he has to hide. This upsets Jonathon, and eventually he goes to find David at his hiding place. During their encounter, "David rose from beside the stone heap and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He bowed three times, and they kissed each other, and wept with each other; David wept the more. Then Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, since both of us have sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants, forever.'" He got up and left; and Jonathan went into the city." (1 Samuel 20:41-42) Eventually Jonathon is killed in battle, and when David hears of it, he laments, "I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women." (2 Samuel 1:26)

These men were noble military leaders and it was possible they could have had a close same-sex relationship, even male to male sex, since that was known to occur in the military in the ancient world. Certainly based upon what we know from this Biblical story, these two men had some type of intimate relationship, physical and sexual or not.

With the story of Ruth and Naomi, again, it is difficult for us in modern times to determine the sexual orientation of these two ancient women. Nevertheless, from reading their story in the Bible, we might conclude that these two women had a very, very close relationship.

At the beginning of the book of Ruth we meet Naomi, whose husband and two sons die in another country to which the family had moved. Naomi decides to return to her homeland and suggests to her foreign daughters-in-law to return to their families so they can get married again. One of them leaves; however, the other, named Ruth, refuses to leave Naomi. In what might be one of the most famous, romantic Biblical quotes, Ruth says to Naomi, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die--there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" (Ruth 1:16-17)

You might recognize this passage because it has often been used during marriage ceremonies. Isn't it ironic that this passage between two women gets read at heterosexual weddings? These verses are about one woman proclaiming her faithfulness to another woman.

Ruth does not leave Naomi, but goes with Naomi back to Naomi's homeland. Ruth eventually marries a male relative of Naomi's named Boaz and has a son with him. These two women remain in each other's lives as the book of Ruth tells us that Naomi nursed Ruth's son, whose name was Obed, and the women of the neighborhood claimed that, "a son has been born to Naomi." Once more, regardless of whether or not there was any physical or sexual intimacy, what we read about Ruth and Naomi seems to suggest a close same-sex relationship.

Thus, we can conclude from both of these stories in the Bible that they are Queer texts that affirm same-sex loving relationships. For our next article we will move on to "Out" the Bible and "reconstruct" some queer identities of Biblical characters. We hope you will check back for more soon!

This is simply a brief overview of material that we usually present during a four to six hour workshop. Our aim here is to briefly introduce some information in these articles. We can't possibly note everything here, so, if you would like more information, or have any questions about what we presented, the Bible and homosexuality, or other matters of faith, please feel free to email Pastors Deb and Jen at pastor@visionofhopemcc.org



TransCentralPA The Slap

Every now and then when I get a warm, fuzzy feeling that true equality and acceptance for and of transgender people is at hand right here in my hometown of Central PA, I get that old, familiar slap in the face: you're a Freak!

Sure, I'm used to that coming from the religious- right-ists at Harrisburg's Pride Parade, screaming at us from their signs and bullhorns, protected by Alanna and her gang of striped umbrellas. Actually, that always brings a peaceful, almost beatific smile to my face, for I know that God/Goddess (remember: I am Trans, so God must be, too) made me the way I am, with love and purpose.

No, this time that slap came from a cute little gay teenage boy, just so full of himself that he couldn't stand not being the center of attention. I was speaking to a local youth group about gender identity versus sexual identity and preference and the issues a transgender person faces. The concerned, polite young adults were asking questions and revealing their interest and experiences in and with the transgender dilemma, when I was asked, in a taunting voice by CLGTB, "Are those your real breasts?!" A moment of awkward silence followed, from which he must have claimed victory: he seemed, in that one question, to have stripped me- a person three times his age - of my dignity, poise and personality - stripped me naked, exposed through that seemingly innocent question my frightened insignificance.

That question was asked after speaking to the gathering of how transgender people are born Trans, how we don't choose such a burden and gift, and how the choice we are left with is learning to cope with finding balance and peace in our attempt to match our appearance to the gender we identify as. I had addressed the fact that what we choose to do to our bodies (if, indeed, we feel we must at all), through medical, surgical and cosmetic means, is all because of the pressure to conform to the gender binary that we must fit in to survive socially.

That question, then, asked with the intent to pronounce, "You're a Freak."

Perhaps, though, as I came away feeling, this punctuating question was the whole point of what I had come to discuss: what are the issues that a Transgender person faces that are different and more difficult than a gay, lesbian or bi person?

Jeanine Russel
President

TransCentralPA
www.transcentralpa.org

LGBT center coalition

The LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central Pennsylvania, having recently merged with Common Roads, is very pleased with the results of its first joint event, Winter Arts Festival 2009. In its third year, the Festival included seven separate events and an art auction hosted at various locations around Central Pennsylvania. Total attendance for the Festival was well over 1,000.

The Harrisburg Men's Chorus opened the Festival with their performance *With Strings Attached* at the Rose Lehrman Center at HACC Main Campus on January 17. The show was very entertaining and featured two surprise cameo performances at the end.

Positive Opportunities joined the festival this year with *Rainbow Shorts: A One Day Film Festival Featuring LGBT Themed Short Films*. Shown at the Allen Theater in Annville on January 24, the film event received rave reviews from attendees, and with over ten films it offered something for everyone.

The Harrisburg Men's Chorus and the Central PA Womyn's Chorus joined forces to present *Music for a Midwinter's Night* at Vision of Hope MCC in Mountville on January 31. The event not only showcased the individual choruses but included several numbers performed together. Joining with the choruses at Vision of Hope, the Pride Festival of Central PA hosted a reception and Art Auction featuring a very nice selection of pieces for purchase.

The Community Center presented *Winter Arts Wisecracks* at Club XS in York featuring ANT The Comic and Jennie McNulty on February 14. Both comics were very funny and ANT kept the entire house laughing for nearly an hour and a half. The official party of Winter Arts Festival, *The Winter HeARTS Ball*, kicked off immediately following ANT's performance. Highlights of the Ball included the Crowning of the Queen of Winter HeARTS and a performance by Colton Ford singing music from his latest album. Kalina Kirkpatrick raised over \$2,200 through a raffle of a flat panel TV to win the crown of Queen of Winter HeARTS.

The Curve, a project of Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania, wrapped up the festival hosting a presentation of *All the King's Men (ATKM)* at the Pullo Center, Penn State York on February 21. ATKM is an all-female, gender-bending performance troupe dedicated to challenging the confines of gender identity and stereotypes. The group

provided much entertainment for the crowd even while accomplishing such a serious mission.

The Community Center extends a sincere thanks to all who attended the events during Winter Arts Festival 2009, and especially to our many sponsors who made it possible: Family Health Council of Central PA, Garretson Tile Co., Sovereign Bank, Club XS, Panzee Press, Central Voice and Baltimore Outloud.

We also want to extend a special thank you to all the participating organizations in this year's Festival who helped demonstrate the possibilities when we work together. Community building is a vital aspect of the Community Center's mission, which is to create common ground for the LGBT community and allies in Central Pennsylvania by providing services through spiritual, educational and cultural activities that foster wholeness. For more information on the Community Center Coalition, go to www.centralpalgbtcenter.org or call (717) 920-9534.



COMMON ROADS

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Dear Tweener,

I'm dating an amazing girl. I love her, but we have contradicting personalities. I am a very touchy-feely person and I like going out in public and holding hands, and just generally being able to touch the people I'm dating. She's the exact opposite. She doesn't like to hold hands in public or really have any physical interaction with me at all. She is always feeling like people are staring at us, which no one is. I try to keep my hands to myself as much as I can, but it seems to upset me that I have to keep my hands in my pockets, 'cause I want nothing more than to grab her hand. Anytime I try she pulls away from me, which not only makes me mad, but it also hurts me. I thought maybe with time it would get better, but it's not. It's been a year and 9 months and nothing's changed.

There's No Sunshine When She's Gone

It feels normal to walk through a crowd; my fingers intertwined with hers, and feel her thumb caressing the back of my hand, or to stand next to her and feel her hand slip into the back pocket of my jeans, pulling me a little closer. Lean against her in a booth at some random restaurant, and to feel her softness against my back and hear her voice in my ear. Sit next to her in the second to the last row of a darkened concert hall and enjoy the feeling of her arm around me. To turn my face toward hers and kiss her without caring or noticing or wondering if there was one person watching or if the whole world had pulled up their chairs for front row seats to the show. It does not feel brazen, or bold, or even liberating to be with my wife in public. To be affectionate with her does not feel like a political statement or some sort of personal crusade. It's not defiant or in-your-face and I don't have a damn thing to prove. It just feels good, and right and so comfortable...oh, did you think I was starting an erotic story...sorry about that to the ladies, and you are welcome to my male readers ;)

This is a very tough one, my friend, because neither one of you is wrong, and neither one of you should have to "change" for the other. This is a personality thing. It doesn't make you bad or selfish for needing to show affection in the very innocent ways you describe, and it isn't wrong or selfish for her to be uncomfortable with it. Some people just can't do the PDA (Public Display of Affection) thing. And for many/most of them, it has nothing to do with being gay...

they would have the same problem in front of gay friends. It's just the way they are.

The other thing to keep in mind is that PDAs, no matter what orientation you are, can be viewed as inappropriate. I'm not going to be shallow and say, "Well as long as they are attractive it's all good!" Uh uh... nope... not going to be that lesbian. Go rent a girls-gone-wild video if that's how you feel. I'm not into watching people stick their tongues down each others throat while I'm having a family dinner at Olive Garden. How about you? Some things are meant for the privacy of one's home.

So what do you do? You see if there is some compromise... you sit down together and ask her if there is ANY time or place or situation where she **WOULD** be comfortable or even semi-comfortable. Also, make sure she understands your motivation behind the acts. It's NOT for attention; it reflects the pride you have in being with her in a relationship.

It probably isn't going to get better with time. It is a part of her personality just like it is yours. My take... be who you are and be proud. If people want to look, it's their choice. We all have eyes that open and close and head's that rotate, right? Just be prepared for society's ignorance.

Again, this isn't a right or wrong situation, we are all made up a little differently that way, with different comfort levels...the best thing you can do is really talk about it...a deep conversation. Beyond that, it comes down to whether or not you are a good fit. If this is the only issue, then you may say, "I can live with it" and let it go. Or you may say that you need that aspect in your relationship...it is important enough to you personally that the two of you may not be a good fit. That doesn't make you bad for needing it that much, or her bad for needing NOT so much. It just is a part of who each of you are.

Tweener has a Degree in Psychology and is here to help! Send your situational questions today.

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this column are the sole opinion of one unique and fantastic lesbian. Tweener is not responsible for any drama caused by the question answers. All names will be kept confidential. Please have a sense of humor sometimes...if you can't laugh at yourself, then someone else will!!!



Keystone Conference 2009

(The T Party)

The Keystone Conference, a celebration of gender diversity, hosted by TransCentralPA, was held in the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey hotel March 12th to the 14th. Thursday included informal events such as shopping, meet & greet and a trip to Hollywood Casino. Friday included dinner and clubbing in downtown Harrisburg. Saturday included workshops and seminars taking place within five conference rooms of the Sheraton and a formal lunch with the Keynote Speaker, Mara Keisling.



Above Left: Jake Kaskey, Policy and Outreach Coordinator, Equality Advocates Pennsylvania - **Center:** Mara Keisling, Keynote Speaker, Executive Director for National Center for Transgender Equality - **Right:** Jeanine Russel, President, TransCentralPA.

During her Keynote speech, Mara spoke of the radical positive change in transgender equality over the past few years. In 2001, 4% of our country had employment protection for gender identity. Now we have 40%, and soon, with the passage of the national bill "ENDA", we'll have 100%. She spoke of the road to come, and warned that a national health care reform could be very bad for transgendered people.



Bree Hartlage

Bree Hartlage, Chairwoman of the International Foundation for Gender Education, led a discussion group "Changing Perspectives of Relationships." Points within the open discussion offered advice relevant to any relationship. Those with experience said that a gender transition is difficult

on a relationship, but with good, honest communication, the relationship can be the best support for the transition. There are plenty of fears that go along with the transition; you need to share these fears with your loved one.



Dr. Sherman Leis

Dr. Sherman Leis, Director of the Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery conducted "MTF: Top and Bottom Surgery" discussing implants, complications, mental and physical condition, and genetic reassignment.

Lady Ellen (with her wife Kayla in the orange dress) led the class "Feminine Style, Image & Demeanor" where she discussed things such as moving like a lady, not showing too much skin at once, and giving attention to the image you're portraying.



Kayla & Ellen



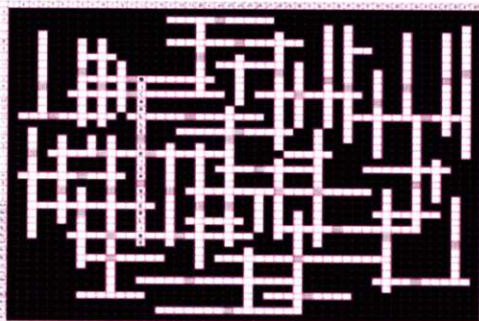
Dr. Cerise Richards

Dr. Cerise Richards, former Chief of Urology at the DC VA Medical Center, taught the session "Brain Gender Identity — Why We Are, Who We Are." Dr. Richards taught that gender identity is determined in the fetal brain.

Natalie Hrubos of Equality Advocates led the workshop "Legal Issues Confronting the Transgender Person." One item discussed was changing your gender marker on your birth certificate. The process can be difficult in some states such as Texas which does not allow it, or a matter of administration in other states where you might need to prove certain transgender surgeries.



Natalie Hrubos



Many of you had trouble with last month's puzzle because you weren't familiar enough with all the drag queens. For those of you still working on it, below is a list of all the names in the puzzle.

AKASHA CASSADINE
ALICIA D'LAVAL
AMETHYST DIAMOND
AMIE VANITE KINCADE
ANGELICA HAIRYETTA
ASHLEY LYNN
AURORA FONTAINE
BIANCA DEMONET
BISCUIT
BUFFY BUFFINGTON
CARMEN CIARA
CHYNNA BUFFET
DAME GLENDA
DAMIAN
DEE RANGED
DIANA MORRIGAN
DOMIANA DUPRE ST
JAMES
DUWANNA MORE
ELIZABETH VANITE
EVA DASTRUCTION
GODDESS BLAIZE
GUADALUPE DEL FUEGO
IVANNA STEELE
JACKIE DANIELS
JAMAICA
JAYDEN
JELITZA FEARCE
JOEY MORGAN
KALINA KIRKPATRICK
KELLY GREEN
KITTY MAME DIETRICH
KRISTEN SNOW

LADY CHATALAE
LAVAE
LADY TABATHA
LAEDY IMANI
LAURISSA ROBERTS
LEQUITCHA
RODRIQUEZ
MADALYNE DEDA
MAKALA DIAMOND
MAYA CRUZ
MEZRO
MIA DAMOURE
MICHELLE LEIGH
STERLING
ONYA PITAL
POISON
PRECIOUS CALIENTE
PRESTON
REBECCA FINN
RIA LARUE
SEBASTIAN
SHATARA
SKY
STAR
STAR POWERS
SYRENA DANIELS
TAI
TEQUILA DANIELS
TRUE FABU
VANITY STARR
VICKY DOMINATRIX
VISA D'KLINE
WHITLEY

The first one to present Bolton with a completed puzzle (Contact me at Panzee@PanzeePress.com) gets a ticket to the Black / White party: Club XS, May 1st with Sandra Bernhard.



Michael Mitchell
Mr. Club XS
2009

Club XS held their
contest for Mr. Club
XS on
Feb. 28th.



Winner
Michael Mitchell



1st Runner Up:
David Shover



Charles Auctioning off
Porn Star Duke River's
Clothing



Winner Michael &
1st Runner Up David

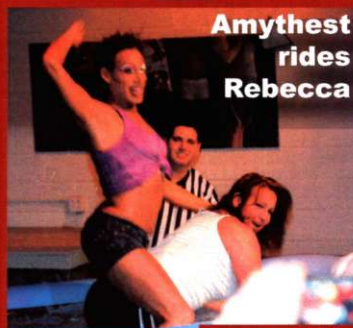


Producer
Charles Oswald &
Porn Star Duke Rivers

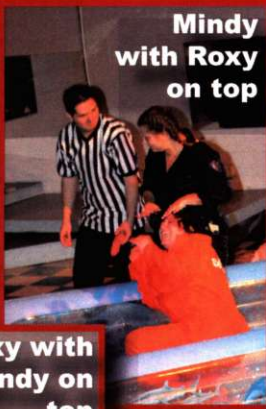
Captions by: Charles Oswald

Photos by: BurkeKinnier Photography

**Amythest
rides
Rebecca**



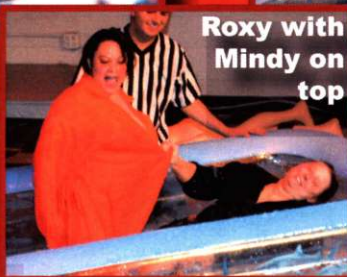
**Mindy
with Roxy
on top**



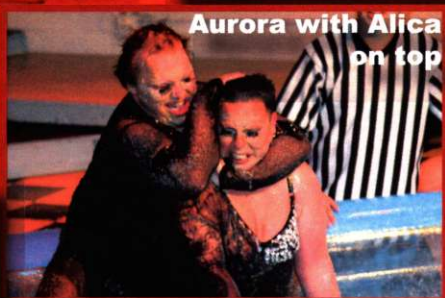
**Beth prepares Anne
for a tasty battle**



**Roxy with
Mindy on
top**



**Aurora with Alica
on top**

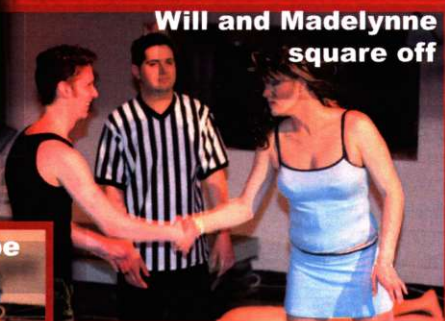


**Jell-O
Wrestling
Within
Liquid 891
on
March 6th**

**Alica
with
Aurora
on top**



**Will and Madelynne
square off**



Billy vs Joe



Mia vs Guataloupe



Captions by Tim & Jeff

**Michelle Leigh
Sterling vs Biscuit**



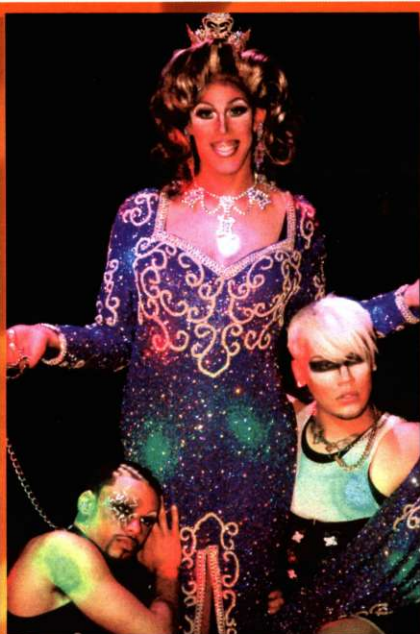
**Miss Gay PA
America,
Vicky Dominatrix
vs
CC's most beloved
Chynna Buffet**



The Main Event



Poison



**Miss Gay York PA 2009:
Amethyst Diamond**



Joanna Blue



**Michelle
Leigh Sterling**



Jamaica



Amethyst Diamond



**Lequitcha
Rodriquez**



**Lequitcha
Rodriquez**



Jamaica



Amethyst's Boys



Tequila Daniels



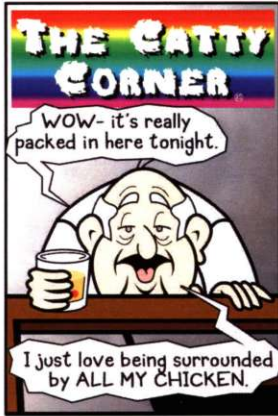
Joanna Blue

Photos by:

BurkeKinnier Photography

**Miss Gay York
PA
was held in
Club XS
on March 13th**





JOE CARR
FREELANCE ARTIST

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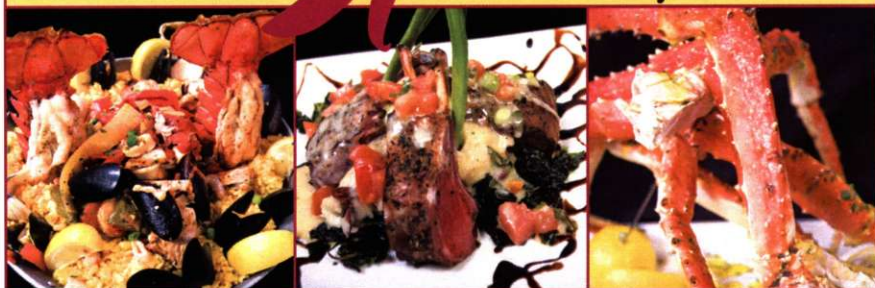
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Spice

to your life!



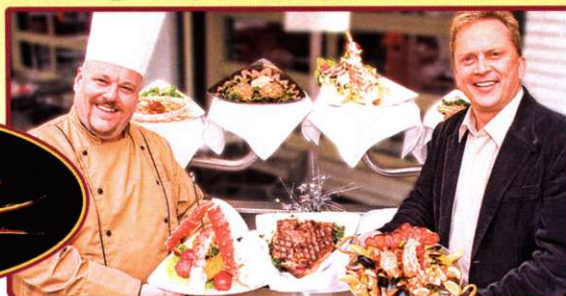
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